September/October '85

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METRO Magazine

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DART & Trailways Combine Forces
Transit Tax Helps L.A.

Convention Issue!

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On the cover: The Eagle Model 10-LT used in the DART I contract. (from left) Stephen W. Griffith, Executive Vice President of The Trailways Corporation, Adlene Harrison, Chairwoman of the Board, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and James P. Kerrigan, Chairman and CEO of The Trailways Corporation. Photo by Micheal Kaufman, MJK Media.

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Top 50 Transit Fleets

Once again, METRO Magazine has ranked North America's 50 largest transit bus fleets. The rankings are based on the American Public Transit Association's 1985 Transit Passenger Vehicle Fleet Inventory which is compiled by John Neff, director of APTA's statistical department (and is available upon request), and on independent research by the Bobit Research Department. With one exception the rankings listed here reflect fleet sizes as of December 31, 1984.

As in 1983, the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) continues to have the largest transit bus fleet with 5,028 buses; NYCTA added 464 buses during 1984.

Meanwhile the Southern California Rapid Transit District (SCRTD) has moved into second place with 3,197 buses while the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT) dropped to third from second place. These two giant agencies changed place simply because the SCRTD added 248 buses to its fleet while NJT dropped 212 buses. It is likely these three agencies will continue to rank in the top three for the forseeable future. This is also true of Chicago's CTA. Although they've lost 57 vehicles, they are still in a hard fourth place with a total of 2,275 buses.

There are two noteable new additions to this year's listing: the West Chester County Transit System, White Plains, New York, and Trailway Commuter System, Dallas, Texas. West Chester was inadvertently left out in last year's ranking; the Trailway Commuter System, however, is brand new, having come into existence late last year when Trailway signed a turnkey contract with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). Thus the ranking for Trailway Commuter includes vehicles purchsed in 1985. It was included in the Top 50 ranking because the the system is believed to be the largest privately-owned transit fleet in the country.

Many other transit systems have grown substantially this year, such as San Jose, Calif., 94 vehicles, and Philadelphia (SEPTA) now also has 73 new additions, Metropolitan Transit Commission, Minneapolis, Minn., up 29 buses; San Francisco Municipal Railway plus 40; the Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans up 40; and the San Mateo Transit District up 33 as well.

Meanwhile some agencies declined substantially. The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Houston, Tex., dropped to the 20th spot from the 12th spot on the ranking when the agency retired a whopping 374 buses. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in the nation's capital dropped to 6th ranking from 5th because it lost 292 buses. Ironically, in last year's ranking, we noted that both the WMATA and Houston had an increase in their fleets — 446 and 325 buses, respectively.

In fact, the total amount of buses for 1985's list is now at 47,405, out of a North American total of 62,306. This means that this year's Top 50 has added another 702 new vehicles over the 1984 count. Keeping in mind that last year's totals were up 1,869 from the 1983 totals, it is evident that orders are still up and going.

In the 35-ft.& under category, though, the '85 totals among the Top 50 fleets have fallen 895 from the previous year. This number is somewhat deceptive though for the growth in small buses is actually much greater. For instance, the 1985 survey listed 2,072 buses with seating capacity between 10 and 20 passengers; the 1984 survey listed 1,494 buses with between 10 and 20 passengers. This represents, overall, 25 percent growth in the this segment of the small bus market—a much greater percentage growth rate than among the standard 40-foot bus fleets.

The articulated bus count for 1985 is now 1,382 — up 350 from 1984's total of 1,032. Seattle still has the largest fleet of articulated buses (353) and, this year, San Juan, Puerto Rico boosted their fleet size with 12 new articulateds (previously, San Juan's fleet consisted entirely of vehicles 35-ft. long or under).

Here then, without further ado, is the Top 50 Fleets in North America:

Top 50 Fleets

RANK		TRANSIT AUTHORITY, CITY	FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'85	'84		Over 35 ft. &	35 ft. Under	Artic-uiated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1985 Total	± Over 1984
1	1	New York Transit Authority and Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority, New York, NY	5,026	2	2	6.8	5,028	+464
2	3	Southern California Rapid Transit District, Los Angeles, CA	2,964	233	40	6.0	3,197	+248
3	2	New Jersey Transit Corporation Bus Operations Inc. & Statewide Vehicle Leasing Program, Newark, NJ	2,776	112	0	7.1	2,888	-212
4	4	Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago, IL	2,225	20	145	9.5	2,275	-57
5	6	Commission De Transport De La Communauté Urbaine De Montreal, Montreal, Quebec	2,181	1	0	6.7	2,182	+87
6	5	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Washington, D.C.	1,825	20	76	10.8	1,845	-292
7	8	Southeast Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA	1,556	5	0	7.6	1,561	+73
8	7	Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto, Ontario	1,455	10	12	8.9	1,465	-84
9	10	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Boston, MA	963	228	0	8.8	1,191	SAME
10	13	Metropolitan Transit Commission, Minneapolis, MN	1,127	49	82	9.8	1,176	+29
11	11	Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, Seattle, WA	1,075	62	353	8.0	1,137	-52
12	9	Port Authority of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA	854	281	50	5.4	1,135	-105
13	14	Mass Transit Administration of Maryland, Baltimore, MD	927	15	0	8.3	942	-8
14	29	Metro Transit Operating Company--Greater Vancouver Transit System, Vancouver British Columbia	862	50	0	9.5	912	SAME
15	18	Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, Atlanta, GA	835	66	56	8.7	901	+18
16	16	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Cleveland, OH	817	61	0	8.5	878	-48
17	19	Ottawa-Carlton Region Transportation Commission Ottawa, Ontario	787	80	21	8.8	867	+6
18	17	Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Oakland, CA	695	161	30	6.4	856	-36
19	15	Bi-State Development Agency, St. Louis, MO	594	256	0	8.0	850	-99
20	12	Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Houston, TX	794	0	0	4.9	794	-374
21	21	Regional Transportation District, Denver, CO	713	63	89	6.7	776	+1

Top 50 Fleets

RANK		TRANSIT AUTHORITY, CITY	FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'85	'84		Over 35 ft.	35 ft. & Under	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1985 Total	± Over 1984
21	25	Santa Clara County Transit District, San Jose, CA	564	212	30	5.6	776	+94
22	27	Dallas Transit System, Dallas, TX	687	1	0	9.5	688	+24
23	23	Calgary Transit, Calgary, Alberta	626	56	0	8.5	683	-22
24	24	Metro-Dade Transportation Administration, Miami, FL	636	46	0	8.1	682	-1
25	26	Orange County Transit District, Garden Grove, CA	419	256	0	5.7	675	SAME
26		Regional Transportation Authority, Suburban Division Chicago, IL	355	314	0	6.7	669	
27	20	Edmonton Transit, Edmonton, Alberta	631	32	0	6.7	663	-190
28	23	Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation (Tri-Met) Portland, OR	422	222	87	9.6	644	-66
29	26	Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority Detroit, MI	305	334	0	5.4	639	-36
30	28	Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee, WI	570	18	0	12.6	588	-44
31	33	Connecticut Transit (Hartford, New Haven and Stamford Divisions), Hartford, CT	382	176	0	10.4	558	+59
32	30	San Francisco Municipal Railway, San Francisco, CA	459	98	99	8.0	557	+40
33	32	Regional Transit Authority, New Orleans, LA	493	30	0	9.2	523	+40
34	31	VIA Metropolitan Transit, San Antonio, TX	123	362	0	6.6	485	-28
35	34	Niagra Frontier Transit Metro System, Inc., Buffalo, NY	442	29	0	9.8	471	-9
36	35	City and County of Honolulu--The Bus, Honolulu, HI	415	25	0	8.1	440	-14
37	36	Queen City Metro, Cincinnati, OH	421	1	0	7.9	422	0
38	37	Utah Transit Authority, Salt Lake City, UT	272	141	0	5.0	413	+7
39	38	Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Kansas City, MO	275	105	0	10.0	380	0
40	39	Metropolitan Bus Authority, San Juan, PR	12	357	12	10.0	369	0

Top 50 Fleets

RANK		TRANSIT AUTHORITY, CITY	FLEET MIX/AGE				FLEET SIZE	
'85	'84		Over 35 ft.	35 ft. & Under	Artic-ulated	Avg. Age (Yrs.)	1985 Total	± Over 1984
41	40	Phoenix Transit System, Phoenix, AR	311	41	35	9.4	352	+15
42	42	Tidewater Transporation District Commission, Norfolk, VA	119	219	0	4.9	338	+6
43		Westchester County Transit System, White Plains, NY	273	64	61	8.2	337	
44	44	Central Ohio Transit Authority, Columbus, OH	270	62	0	4.7	332	+9
45	46	San Mateo County Transit District, Burlingame, CA	199	129	10	6.0	328	+33
46	41	Metropolitan Suburban Bus Authority, East Meadow, NJ	326	0	2	6.8	326	-7
47	45	Transit Authority of River City, Louisville, KY	285	33	15	7.0	318	+7
48		Trailway Commuter Transit, Dallas, TX	300	0	0	.5	300	
49	44	San Diego Transit Corporation, San Diego, CA	247	50	45	8.5	297	-18
50	48	Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation Indianapolis, IN	201	64	30	6.7	285	+13

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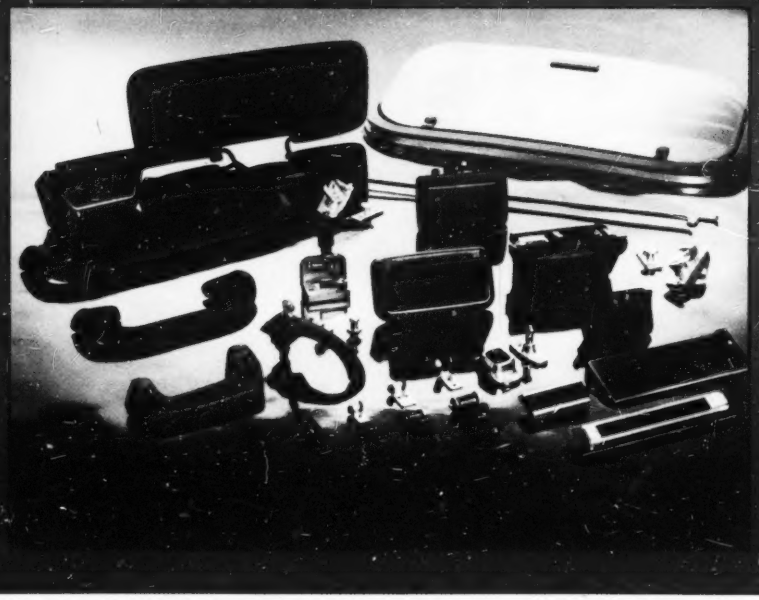

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